



USDA/NASS
New Mexico Field Office

Weekly Ag Update

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Crop Weather Milk Production Cotton Outlook

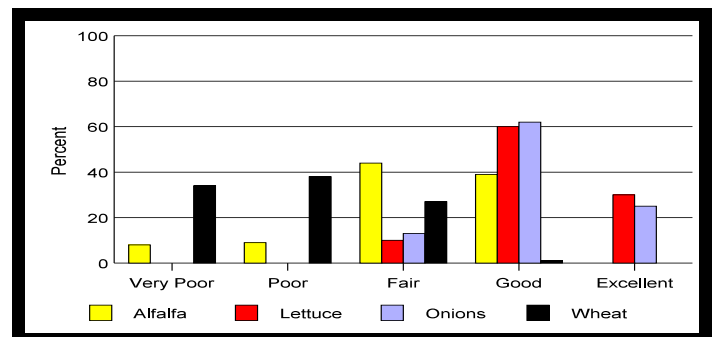
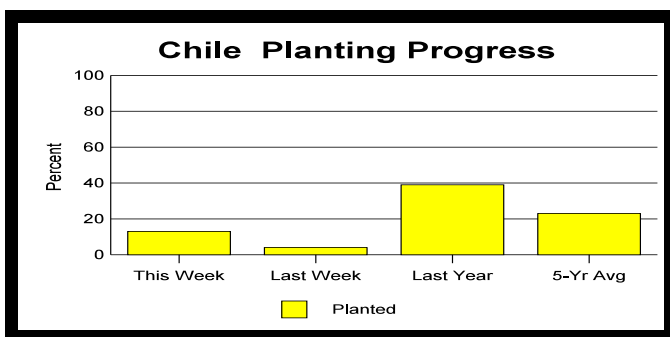
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CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 19, 2006

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.2 days suitable for field work. Farmers were busy preparing fields and irrigating. Some producers in our eastern and south eastern counties saw between a half of an inch to an inch of rainfall, and some up north saw short lived snow. Much of the rest of the state had another dry, windy week. Topsoil moisture was 64% very short, 20% short, and 16% adequate. Wind damage was 38% light, 19% moderate, and 3% severe. Freeze damage was 2 % light, and 10% moderate. Alfalfa was 8% very poor, 9% poor, 44% fair, and 39% good. Total winter wheat was 34% very poor, 38% poor, 27% fair, and 1% good. Only 8% of wheat pastures are being grazed, compared to 13% last week, and 48% last year. Lettuce was 10% fair, 60% good, and 30% excellent. Chile is progressing slower than last year with 13% planted. Onions were 13% fair, 62% good, and 25% excellent. Ranchers spent the week calving, hauling water, and supplementing feed. Cattle were reported as 3% very poor, 6% poor, 45% fair, 45% good, and 1% excellent. Sheep were 5% very poor, 10% poor, 70% fair, and 15% good. Range and pasture conditions were 14% very poor, 29% poor, 37% fair, and 20% good.

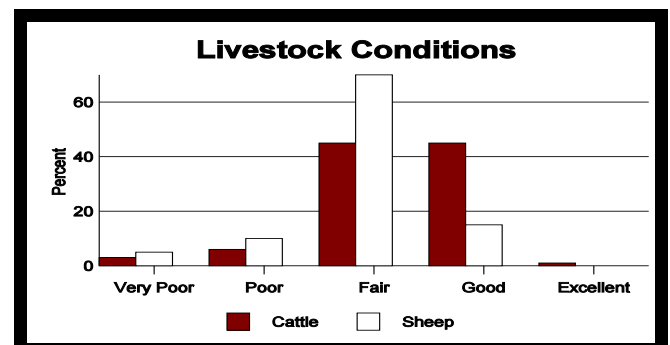
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

| CROP PROGRESS | | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|---------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| CHILE | Planted | 13 | 4 | 39 | 23 |
| ONIONS | Planted | 100 | 92 | 89 | 89 |
| WHEAT | Grazed | 8 | 13 | 48 | N/A |



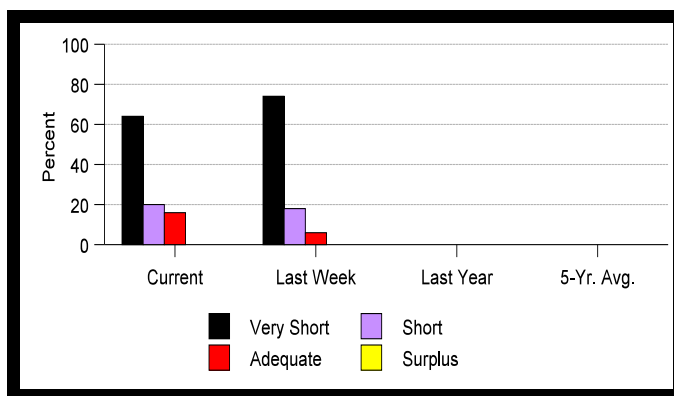
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

| | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Alfalfa | 8 | 9 | 44 | 39 | --- |
| Lettuce | --- | --- | 10 | 60 | 30 |
| Onions | --- | --- | 13 | 62 | 25 |
| Wheat (All) | 34 | 38 | 27 | 1 | --- |
| Cattle | 3 | 6 | 45 | 45 | 1 |
| Sheep | 5 | 10 | 70 | 15 | --- |
| Range/Pasture | 14 | 29 | 37 | 20 | --- |



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

| | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|-----------------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| Northwest | 63 | 30 | 7 | -- |
| Northeast | 89 | 10 | 1 | --- |
| Southwest | 55 | 25 | 20 | --- |
| Southeast | 25 | 25 | 50 | --- |
| State Current | 64 | 20 | 16 | --- |
| State-Last Week | 74 | 18 | 8 | --- |
| State-Last Year | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| State-5-Yr Avg. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |



WEATHER SUMMARY

The week began cold with one storm exiting the state, and ended with another storm. Warm, dry weather around mid-week coupled with the two storms produced weekly temperature averages that were close to normal. Most precipitation amounts were on the light side, although Carlsbad measured over an inch of rain from thunderstorms. Some hail fell with storms near the eastern New Mexico border with Texas.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - MARCH 13 - 19, 2006

| Station | Temperature | | | Precipitation | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | Mean | Maximum | Minimum | 03/13 03/19 | 03/01 03/19 | Normal Mar. | 01/01 03/19 | Normal Jan-Mar |
| Farmington | 41.1 | 67 | 14 | 0.00 | 0.60 | 0.81 | 1.00 | 1.97 |
| Gallup | 33.6 | 58 | 1 | 0.01 | 0.59 | 1.05 | 0.97 | 2.59 |
| Capulin | 34.9 | 60 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.89 | 0.39 | 1.85 |
| Chama | 30.6 | 52 | 0 | 0.41 | 0.74 | 1.99 | 1.82 | 5.34 |
| Johnson Ranch | 34.2 | 61 | 5 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.74 | 0.06 | 1.98 |
| Las Vegas | 37.8 | 60 | 10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.63 | 0.03 | 1.71 |
| Los Alamos | 37.8 | 58 | 14 | 0.23 | 0.36 | 1.22 | 0.55 | 2.88 |
| Raton | 38.4 | 63 | 7 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.83 | 0.23 | 1.84 |
| Red River | 28.6 | 49 | -3 | 0.39 | 2.12 | 1.78 | 2.90 | 4.07 |
| Santa Fe | 39.6 | 62 | 1 | 0.00 | 0.24 | 0.74 | 0.28 | 2.06 |
| Clayton | 40.0 | 70 | 16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.55 | 0.06 | 1.10 |
| Clovis | 46.1 | 71 | 23 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.59 | 0.13 | 1.49 |
| Roy | 39.3 | 65 | 14 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.55 | 0.06 | 1.32 |
| Tucumcari | 47.0 | 75 | 23 | 0.06 | 0.14 | 0.40 | 0.21 | 1.13 |
| Grants | 36.6 | 62 | 5 | 0.00 | 0.47 | 0.50 | 0.67 | 1.50 |
| Quemado | 34.6 | 62 | -12 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 0.80 | 0.93 | 2.35 |
| Albuquerque | 46.5 | 66 | 18 | 0.01 | 0.12 | 0.54 | 0.16 | 1.44 |
| Carrizozo | 47.5 | 68 | 13 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.57 | 0.25 | 1.74 |
| Socorro | 48.5 | 76 | 19 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 0.02 | 1.05 |
| Gran Quivera | 45.4 | 67 | 13 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.72 | 0.02 | 2.24 |
| Moriarty | 38.2 | 64 | 9 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.53 | 0.06 | 1.44 |
| Ruidoso | 39.9 | 62 | 13 | 0.01 | 0.21 | 1.33 | 0.68 | 3.61 |
| Carlsbad | 54.5 | 81 | 28 | 1.29 | 1.29 | 0.30 | 1.59 | 1.00 |
| Roswell | 50.5 | 78 | 23 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.45 | 0.05 | 1.34 |
| Tatum | 43.7 | 75 | 17 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.52 | 0.21 | 1.41 |
| Alamogordo | 54.7 | 73 | 30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.46 | 0.33 | 1.67 |
| Animas | 52.8 | 76 | 29 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.47 | 0.38 | 1.66 |
| Deming | 52.9 | 76 | 26 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.58 | 1.36 |
| Las Cruces | 53.4 | 77 | 33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | 0.18 | 1.05 |
| T or C | 50.2 | 74 | 24 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.08 | 1.18 |

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

MILK PRODUCTION

NEW MEXICO: Milk Production in New Mexico during February totaled 585 million pounds, 17% higher than the February 2005 total of 499 million pounds. Production per cow for the month was 1,700 pounds, compared to 1,560 pounds per cow during February 2005. Average number of milk cows on farms totaled 344,000 head, 2,000 head higher than the January 2006 total and 24,000 head higher than one year ago.

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 5.9 percent from February 2005. January production, at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 5.5 percent from January 2005. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,588 pounds for February, 66 pounds above February 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.21 million head, 121,000 head more than February 2005, and 118,000 head more than January 2005.

Milk Cows and Production: January 2005^{1/} and February 2005-2006

| State | Milk Cows ^{2/} | | | Milk per Cow ^{3/} | | | Milk Production ^{3/} | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2/05 | 1/06 | 2/06 | 2/05 | 1/06 | 2/06 | 2/05 | 1/06 | 2/06 |
| | -----1,000 Head----- | | | -----Pounds----- | | | -----Million Pounds----- | | |
| AZ | 164 | 165 | 166 | 1,840 | 2,035 | 1,930 | 302 | 336 | 320 |
| CA | 1,742 | 1,776 | 1,781 | 1,635 | 1,825 | 1,705 | 2,848 | 3,241 | 3,037 |
| CO | 100 | 106 | 106 | 1,720 | 1,935 | 1,795 | 172 | 205 | 190 |
| FL | 139 | 134 | 134 | 1,475 | 1,485 | 1,440 | 205 | 199 | 193 |
| ID | 437 | 473 | 473 | 1,680 | 1,830 | 1,680 | 734 | 866 | 795 |
| IL | 105 | 104 | 104 | 1,500 | 1,630 | 1,540 | 158 | 170 | 160 |
| IN | 155 | 161 | 162 | 1,600 | 1,720 | 1,575 | 248 | 277 | 255 |
| IA | 190 | 200 | 200 | 1,615 | 1,765 | 1,630 | 307 | 353 | 326 |
| KS | 109 | 111 | 111 | 1,575 | 1,790 | 1,620 | 172 | 199 | 180 |
| KY | 110 | 101 | 101 | 1,000 | 1,150 | 1,050 | 110 | 116 | 106 |
| MI | 308 | 313 | 314 | 1,660 | 1,875 | 1,725 | 511 | 587 | 542 |
| MN | 455 | 445 | 450 | 1,405 | 1,605 | 1,480 | 639 | 714 | 666 |
| MO | 117 | 114 | 114 | 1,230 | 1,440 | 1,320 | 144 | 164 | 150 |
| NM | 320 | 342 | 344 | 1,560 | 1,845 | 1,700 | 499 | 631 | 585 |
| NY | 650 | 651 | 649 | 1,415 | 1,595 | 1,485 | 920 | 1,038 | 964 |
| OH | 267 | 273 | 273 | 1,370 | 1,490 | 1,390 | 366 | 407 | 379 |
| OR | 120 | 121 | 121 | 1,460 | 1,530 | 1,430 | 175 | 185 | 173 |
| PA | 560 | 557 | 555 | 1,420 | 1,650 | 1,550 | 795 | 919 | 860 |
| TX | 317 | 325 | 325 | 1,560 | 1,845 | 1,755 | 495 | 600 | 570 |
| VT | 143 | 143 | 143 | 1,430 | 1,580 | 1,450 | 204 | 226 | 207 |
| VA | 105 | 103 | 103 | 1,345 | 1,510 | 1,410 | 141 | 156 | 145 |
| WA | 237 | 237 | 236 | 1,805 | 1,940 | 1,790 | 428 | 460 | 422 |
| WI | 1,234 | 1,240 | 1,240 | 1,400 | 1,585 | 1,455 | 1,728 | 1,965 | 1,804 |
| 23 STS | 8,084 | 8,195 | 8,205 | 1,522 | 1,710 | 1,588 | 12,301 | 14,014 | 13,029 |

1/ Revised. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

COTTON OUTLOOK

February 10, 2006

U.S. Cotton Supply and Demand Overview: The U.S. cotton crop for 2005/06 remains estimated at a record 23.7 million bales (upland at 23.1 million and extra-long staple (ELS) at 655,000 bales), compared with the 2004/05 crop of 23.3 million; these two crops are the largest on record for the United States. Based on the latest *Cotton Ginnings* report, ginnings were about 97 percent complete by the beginning of February as approximately 23 million bales of cotton had been ginned. The USDA will release the final 2005/06 ginnings, as well as the final upland and ELS production data on May 12th. Based on this production estimate and the current estimates for beginning stocks (5.5 million bales) and imports (40,000 bales), the 2005/06 U.S. cotton supply is forecast at 29.3 million bales, 9 percent above last season and the largest since 1965/66. Similarly, total demand this season is expected to surpass the 2004/05 level and reach a record 22.3 million bales, nearly 6 percent above last season. Consequently, 2005/06 ending stocks are forecast to rise 26 percent to 7 million bales.

Mill Use Estimate Revised; Exports Unchanged: The U.S. cotton mill use projection for 2005/06 was lowered 100,000 bales this month to 5.9 million, reflecting the recently reported slowdown in December mill activity. Based on data from the Commerce Department, the seasonally adjusted annualized rate of mill consumption has averaged 5.9 million bales for the August through December period. Actual cotton mill use for the comparable period is running about 12.5 percent below 2004/05, a season in which mill use rose modestly to 6.7 million bales. In 2005/06, cotton mill use is being limited by the growth in cotton textile and apparel imports and the lack of growth in product exports. At 5.9 million bales, U.S. mill use would be the lowest since 1984/85.

The U.S. cotton export forecast was unchanged in February at 16.4 million bales, 2 million above last season's shipments and a record. The higher shipment forecast is based on strong export sales data and the foreign supply and demand outlook that includes lower production and higher cotton consumption and imports. China alone is forecast to import 17 million bales or 40 percent of the world import total in 2005/06. With foreign consumption projected at a record, import demand for U.S. cotton is expected to remain brisk. Despite this season's record shipment forecast, the U.S. share of world trade is projected to decline to 39 percent from last season's 41.5 percent.

Textile Trade Drops in November: U.S. textile imports during November 2005 totaled 1.6 billion pounds, 9 percent below October but 8 percent above a year ago. Imports declined for all major fibers and all end-use categories. Cotton textile imports, at 869 million pounds, dropped 5 percent from the previous month but were 12 percent above November 2004. Textile imports during January through November 2005 were 17.7 billion pounds, 9 percent (1.4 billion pounds) above the comparable period of 2004. Similarly, cotton textile imports during the first 11 months of 2005 totaled 9.7 billion pounds, 11 percent (938 million pounds) above a year earlier. U.S. textile exports for November were 425 million pounds, 3 percent below October but 10 percent above a year ago. Export declines for the latest month occurred for all major fibers and all end-uses, except apparel. Cotton textile exports, at 196 million pounds, were 2 percent below October but 7 percent above a year ago. Cumulative textile exports for January through November reached 4.7 billion pounds, 6 percent (250 million pounds) above the same period in 2004. Shipments of cotton textile products during the first 11 months of 2005 were slightly higher (5.7 million pounds) than a year earlier.

Overall, the textile trade deficit during January through November 2005 climbed to 13.0 billion pounds, compared with 11.7 billion a year ago. Likewise, the cotton deficit reached 7.6 billion pounds in 2005, compared with 6.6 billion for the same period of 2004. Cotton products account for 58 percent of the total U.S. textile deficit, up 2 percent from a year ago.